

b) a molecular weight of 60 kDa, by the molecular weight assay using SDS-PAGE;

c) a molecular weight of 55 kDa, by the molecular weight assay using gel filtration;

and

d) pI (isoelectric point) 3.8, by the assay by isoelectric focusing,

or a microorganism according to claim 5 for degrading and decolorizing dyes.

#### REMARKS

Claims 1-6 are active in the present application. Claim 6 has been amended to remove an improper multiple dependency. No new matter is added. An action on the merits and allowance of claims is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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IN THE CLAIMS

--6. (Amended) A method for degrading and decolorizing dyes, comprising using an enzyme [according to claim 1] derived from Geotrichum candidum Dec 1 (FERM BP-7033), which has the following properties:

a) a property to degrade and decolorize dyes;

b) a molecular weight of 60 kDa, by the molecular weight assay using SDS-PAGE;

c) a molecular weight of 55 kDa, by the molecular weight assay using gel filtration;

and

d) pI (isoelectric point) 3.8, by the assay by isoelectric focusing,

or a microorganism according to claim 5 for degrading and decolorizing dyes.--